GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:155
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
FREE TELEPHONE FACILITY TO SENIOR CITIZENS
MOHAMMED SHAHABUDDIN;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide `free telephone` facility to the senior citizens including the pensioners, who have attained the age of 65 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PR MAHAJAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 155 FOR 13TH MARCH, 2002 REGARDING FREE TELEPHONE FACILITY TO SENIOR CITIZENS.

(a) to (c): No, Sir. However, senior citizens of the age of 65 and above are entitled to register with BSNL/MTNL their demand for one telephone connection in their names under Non-OYT Special category, a category which is given priority over general category. Further, they are also exempted from payment of registration charges for registering their demand for new telephone connection. Pensioners can also avail this facility once they attain the age of 65 years. Fixation/regulation of tariff is a function of TRAIAt present there is no TRAI recommendation for concessional or free telephones to Senior citizens.